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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Annual Arbitration Training Conference and Labor Relations Conference
Scheduled for September**

(**Helena**) – The annual Arbitration Training Conference and the 28th Annual Labor Relations Conference, providing forums for practitioners in the labor relations arena to meet, exchange information and learn from one another, will be held in September at the Park Plaza in Helena. Attendees are welcome to attend one or both conferences.

Day One: National Academy of Arbitrators member and nationally published editor and author Patrick Halter, will begin the one day annual arbitration training September 19. Halter will focus on discovery and evidentiary matters in arbitration. The training offers a unique opportunity to learn and to interact with nationally recognized members of the arbitration community. Five continuing education credits are available for this training.

Day Two: Keynote speakers Patrick Halter and Rita Callahan, recognized leaders in alternative dispute resolution processes, will open the Arbitration and Labor Relations Conference on September 20, addressing The Future of Workplace Alternative Dispute Resolution: Reality or Racket?

(more)

Other presentations in day two's labor relations conference include Status Quo and Good Faith Bargaining; National Labor Relations Board Updates and Trends; and Montana Employment Law Developments. Red Light, Green Light. Red Light, Green Light offers participants an opportunity to interact with and observe how a panel of arbitrators would rule on real life based labor and employment disputes.

Other sessions include Firing Line, a question and answer session with seasoned arbitrators, and Assessing Conflict and Selecting the Best Process: If Not Mediation, What? Union and management representatives will also host Contract Interpretation and Grievance Investigation.

At the conclusion of the conference the Board of Personnel Appeals will conduct its regular September meeting and hear pending cases.

The Arbitration Training Conference and the Labor Relations Conference are sponsored by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Board of Personnel Appeals, Montana Arbitration Association, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, the National Labor Relations Board and the Dispute Resolution Committee of the Montana State Bar.

A detailed agenda, presenter bios, and online registration forms can be found at www.mtlaborrelationsconf.com. A total of 10.5 continuing education credits are available for the labor relations conference.

For additional information contact Vicki Knudsen at yknudsen@mt.gov or by calling 406-444-0038.

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